

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4(canceled).

5(original). A process for the preparation of ready to cook french fried potatoes which process comprises chopping potatoes, fermenting the chopped potatoes with a lactic acid producing microorganism, frying the fermented chopped potatoes, and optionally loading the fried fermented chopped potatoes into a container.

6(original). A process for the preparation of ready to cook french fried potatoes which process comprises chopping potatoes, treating the chopped potatoes with a physiologically acceptable acid, frying the acid treated potatoes, and optionally loading the fried potatoes into a container.

7(original). A container, preferably a sealed container, containing oven-ready french fried potatoes produced by frying chopped potatoes pre treated with a lactic acid producing microorganism and/or a physiologically acceptable acid.

8(original). A process for the production of a food product which comprises fermenting a granulated or crushed carbohydrate-containing plant material with a lactic acid producing microorganism, optionally formulating the fermented material into a shaped product, and cooking to produce said food product.

9(original). A process for the production of a food product which comprises treating a granulated or crushed carbohydrate-containing plant material with a physiologically tolerable aqueous acid, optionally formulating the treated material into a shaped product, and cooking to produce said food product.

10(currently amended). A process as claimed in ~~either of claims 8 and 9~~ claim 8 further comprising packaging the food product into sealed sterilized containers.

11(currently amended). Food products produced by a process according to ~~any one of claims 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10~~ claim 5 or ~~according to a use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4.~~

12(new). A process as claimed in claim 9 further comprising packaging the food product into sealed sterilized containers.

13(new). Food products produced by a process according to claim 6.

14(new). Food products produced by a process according to claim 8.

15(new). Food products produced by a process according to claim 9.

16(new). Food products produced by a process according to claim 10.